4: Burgess E-4, 5 (1926-1927) 1928 AF12 North China AF12

One evident reason for the stopping of the plays is an economic one. Such ceremonies are costly and cannot be kept up during "bad business," as the Cloth Pasters report. In the case of the Clock Stores, the probable reason for discontinuing the worship was that originally the guild ceremonies were of a Roman Catholic nature, the guildsmen all being of that religion, but recently many Buddhists have been taken into the trade and there could be no form of religious ceremony that would satisfy both groups. Undoubtedly contact with new ideas and loss in belief in the potency of the ancient religious worship have also been factors influencing this discontinuance. In the commercial guilds where all members are able to read and where wide contacts are made through the Chamber of Commerce, the newer ideas have a fairly direct access to the minds of the guildsmen.

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C. The Names and Description of the Guild Founders or Masters

The guild founders or masters [1] were chosen from craftsmen, mythological or otherwise, who were supposed to have founded a particular craft, from emperors, historical or legendary, and from the gods of current belief. Table XVI [2] lists the masters or gods worshiped by the Peking crafts.

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The most popular of these masters is the God of Wealth, who is worshiped by eight guilds. *Kung Shu Lu Pan,* whom we have already described in our study of the Carpenters,[3] is a close second, being worshiped by seven of the craft guilds. The legends and stories about these supposed foun-

[1] The special objects of guild worship were called masters, founders, gods or patron saints, the terms sometimes being used interchangeably.

[2] *Cf.* pp. 188, 189.

[3] *Cf.* p. 100.

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ders or guardian spirits are many and are frequently contradictory.[1] The God of Wealth is not, as a matter of fact, one god, but has three representations in the persons of three historical or legendary characters. The one worshiped by the guildsmen is *Kwan Yü*, commonly known as *Wu Tsai Shen*, or the Military God of Wealth. Just why these guildsmen have selected this particular one of the three is not clear. *Kwan Yü* was a high military official and the brother of the equally famous *Yiu Pei* and lived at the time of the Three Kingdoms (A. D. 221–264). He was noted for his faithfulness to his adopted brother and for his honesty.

Tien Hwang, Ti Hwang and *Jen Hwang*, the three emperors of Heaven, Earth and Man, are the symbolical representations of the rulers at the time of the Three August Periods.[2] During these mythical reigns, first the heavens were formed, next the earth received its shape, and finally terrestrial beings took their places in the universe. To describe fully the significance in Chinese minds of the principles and potentialities symbolized by these Emperors would, of course, take us far afield from the subject in hand.

Tsao Wang, the Kitchen God, worshiped by the cooks, the waiters and the kitchen coolies, is variously described as the deification of any one of four different individuals, one of whom was a deity worshiped in the Hsia Dynasty (B. C. 2205-2146), and another, the Emperor Hwang Ti (B. C. 2697-2597), who is supposed to have been the first to build a stove.

Wen Tai Shih is thought to have been a high official of the Shang Dynasty under Emperor Chou (1154-1122).

Wen Chang Ti Chun is probably the name of a god of the Buddhist Pantheon.

[1] Most of the following legendary material is derived from the Chinese Encyclopedia published in Shanghai by the Commercial Press.

[2] H. H. Gowan, *An Outline History of China* (Boston, 1913), p. 2.

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Yü Wang was an Emperor in the Hsia Dynasty (B. C. 2205-2197). He founded the Dynasty at the time when China was flooded and in general disorder. He dug canals and widened rivers and is supposed to have built nine famous bronze tripods, the first of their kind. Since the base material of much cloisonné work is bronze, Yü Wang is worshiped by the Cloisonné Designers.

Chu Hsi, or Philosopher Chu (A. D. 1130-1201), is the standard commentator on the writings of Confucius.

Han Yü lived in the T'ang Dynasty under Emperor Te Tzung (780-805). He was a clever philosopher who because of his great aversion to superstition tried to prevent the Emperor from collecting the bones of Buddha from which the Emperor expected to derive supernatural power. For his efforts he was demoted in official position.

Pu An Lao Tzu is worshiped by the painters who do the common work without decoration.

Wu Tao Chen Jen lived in the Tang Dynasty (A. D. 618-905) and was called the Sage of Painters. He was specially famous for the painting of Buddhist gods. It is said that when he was putting the finishing touches to the eyes of a dragon he was painting, the dragon flapped his tail and walked out of the canvas. The painters who do the decorative work worship this famous artist.

Hu Tzu, or Ancestor Hu, is worshiped by the Tinkers. Hu at one time was such an able craftsman that he offered to mend a pagoda that was broken, and did so successfully. When going around the country he is said to have used the expression, "I will mend the *Ta Chia Huo*" — "the large utensils." Judging from his exploit in mending the broken pagoda it does not seem presumptous that he should be willing to make this offer!

Tang Hsuan Tsung was an Emperor of the Tang Dynasty (B. C. 713-756). He was a very sociable man, fond of

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music and drama. He is said to have gathered together the waitresses and the men servants of his court and to have trained them personally as actors and musicians. This trained band of the Emperor's servants is supposed to have been the first group of actors. This Emperor is generally known as the *Hsi Shen* or God of Happiness.

Lo Tzu is the founder of the barbers. No information as to the history of this mythological character is available.

Shih Kwang was a famous blind musician of the Chin Dynasty (B. C. 249-209). He was able by some mysterious intuition to foretell good and evil from hearing the sound of music.

Tung Fang Shuo was a blind entertainer who lived in the Han Dynasty (B. C. 202–A. D. 190). He was very famous as a maker of witty speeches and as a teller of humorous stories.

Chou Chuang Wang was an Emperor of the Chwang or Chou Dynasty who lived B. C. 696-681.

Mei Hsien Wang and *Ke Hsien Wang* are two Fairy Kings of current mythology.

Chen Wu Ta Ti is a mythological God of the North.

Sun Pin was a warrior of the T'si Dynasty (A. D. 479-501). The story is that he had his feet cut off when captured by his deadly rival, P'ang Chuan. He was returned to his patron Emperor and was successful later in annihilating his former adversary.

Mohammed and *Allah* are the deities of the Mutton Merchants in Peking, who are all Mohammedans, and hence worship at the Mohammedan Mosque in the usual fashion of their faith.

Ping Tien Ta Ti, Peaceful Heaven and Large Earth, and *Huo Shen*, the god who controls fire, are worshiped by the Pork Shops Guild.

Ching Miao Shen, God of Growing Crops, is the patron saint of the Vegetable Merchants.